



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



PHONE 734-0200
227 BROWN STATE OFFICE BUILDING
1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR.
GOVERNOR

BILL SAMS
DIRECTOR

PALMETTO
VETS GAZETTE

VOL. IV JAN-MAR 1992

"From the Director's Desk"

Thanks to all of you for your contributions towards making 1991 a memorable year for our veterans. There were several "red letter" events for our veterans in '91.

Operation Desert Shield/Storm: I do not believe anything has ever filled us with more joy or gratitude than "Homecoming." Our magnificent military men and women of Desert Storm received our heartfelt salute for bringing Operation Desert Storm to a swift and successful resolution. Our prayers continue for our returning warriors who serve this great nation of ours with unmatched professionalism. Let us not forget the sacrifices made by those left behind--the families.

Richard Michael Campbell State Veterans Nursing Home: We opened our second state veterans' nursing home, located near Anderson, this past year. Currently there are 88 residents and hopefully the budget will allow us to open the remaining wings in the not too distant future so that we will have 220 veterans residing in this magnificent facility.

Veterans Day: On November 11, 1991, we recognized four of our 17,000 lady veterans from this great state for the contributions and sacrifices that the women veterans have made and continue to make to our military force.

Pearl Harbor 50th Anniversary: December 7, 1991 marked the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the impetus that launched this country into World War II. Many observances marked this occasion, but probably none so sombre or more full of memories than the one conducted at the site of the Arizona Memorial in Hawaii.

This new year, 1992, will be yet another challenge for the agency in assisting our veterans, their widows and orphans in obtaining the benefits they earned and so richly deserve. We look forward to working with you in this new year.

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"Seasons Greetings"
The Director and staff of the
South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs
wish you and your families a Merry Christmas
and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

S. C. STATE LIBRARY

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STATE DOCUMENTS

SCDVA NEWS

Carrie Thomas, who has been in charge of our file room since 1985, has been hospitalized since August. Due to the severity of her medical condition, she was retired on disability in November, and is still hospitalized at Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia. Carrie did a super job for us and we wish her a complete and speedy recovery.

At the agency Christmas party on December 13, several agency employees were honored for their years of service and dedication. The Director presented certificates to:

Jimmie Gresham - 20 years
Linda Skipper - 20 years
Jean Watts - 20 years
Lawrie Harmon - 15 years
Belva Risinger - 10 years
Donna Hair - 5 years

Thank you for your dedicated service to the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs.

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NEW VA COMP RATES

The President has signed into law H.R. 1046, which authorizes a 3.7% COLA in the rates for service connected disability compensation and DIC. Also increased are the dependency allowances and special statutory awards as well as the VA's annual clothing allowance. The effective date for these increases is December 1, 1991.

DISABILITY PERCENT NEW \$

10	83
20	157
30	240
40	342
50	487
60	614
70	776
80	897
90	1010
100	1680

STATUTORY AWARD NEW \$

k	68
l	2089
m	2302
n	2619
o/p	2927

r1	1257
r2	1872
s	1879

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE 452

DIC RATES

E-1	616
E-2	635
E-3	652
E-4	698
E-5	711
E-6	727
E-7	762
E-8	805
E-9	841
W-1	780
W-2	811
W-3	835
W-4	884
O-1	780
O-2	805
O-3	862
O-4	912
O-5	1005
O-6	1134
O-7	1225
O-8	1343
O-9	1440
O-10	1580

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CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA TIPS

If you received (or provided) civilian care under CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA in 1990, and still haven't filed a claim for CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA cost-sharing of the medical bills, now is the time. All claims for 1990 civilian health care must be in the proper hands by the end of 1991.

If you wait too long to file, you're risking denial of the claim because it was filed too late. If something is missing on the claim, it may be returned to you. Under certain circumstances, there might be no record that you filed the claim in a timely manner, and by the time you resubmit it, the filing deadline may have passed.

Here are some other tips that will help your CHAMPUS claim get processed quickly and accurately:

* Submit only one claim (and attached docu-

ments) per envelope.

- * Don't submit more than four or five items with each claim.

- * Make sure all required items are easy to find and read. Don't send fuzzy, obscured or illegible documentation.

- * Don't use highlighting pens on the claim form or accompanying documents. Circle any items you wish to emphasize.

- * If you are submitting large bills, consider submitting them separately.

- * File a separate claim for each patient.

- * Write the sponsors Social Security number on each document submitted with the claim, so it can be identified in case it gets separated from the claim form.

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BRONZE STAR FOR CORREGIDOR VETS!

Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) has introduced legislation to "right a 50 year wrong" in awarding Bronze Stars to the Navy and Marine Corps veterans who defended Corregidor in the Philippines in the opening days of WWII.

Dole, a wounded and decorated combat veteran of the Italian Campaign of WWII, said "Every American who endured the nightmare of Corregidor and Bataan has earned special recognition and national admiration for their courage and sacrifice."

In early 1942 more than 3,000 Sailors and Marines, under the command of Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, engaged in fierce combat with overwhelming Japanese forces. After their capture in April 1942, American forces were subjected to the atrocities of the infamous "Bataan Death March." Those who survived that ordeal were subjected to brutal imprisonment.

U.S. Army personnel who fought at Bataan were awarded the Bronze Star, but due to a technicality in naval policy, the Sailors and Marines who battled alongside them did not, which Dole called "a shocking injustice."

"I hope we can finally right a terrible wrong by honoring the courage and loyalty of these American heroes," Dole said. "I look forward to seeing these patriots receive the tribute they so richly deserve from a grateful America."

H.R. 3349 INTRODUCED

Congressman Cunningham (R-CA) has introduced H.R. 3349 which has 10 co-sponsors. This bill would amend Title 10, US Code, and Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit the reimbursement of expenses incurred by a medical facility of the uniformed services of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in providing health care to persons eligible under the Medicare Program or the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services.

This bill, if passed, would enable Medicare and CHAMPUS to pay Military Treatment facilities for care given to qualified military retirees and their dependents. It would also pay the VA treatment facilities for care given to all veterans otherwise qualified for VA care.

This bill does not create eligibility for health care at either VA or military facilities to new groups of beneficiaries. However, the bill would help restore promised health care services traditionally available to military retirees, their dependents and other veterans in either military and/or VA facilities, depending upon current eligibility, and at a lower overall cost to both taxpayers and beneficiaries.

Under this legislation, instead of spending their "Medicare money" with a civilian provider, a beneficiary would have the option of spending those same Medicare dollars at either a VA or military facility but at a lower cost. Health care costs in those facilities are variously estimated between 35% and 50% lower than in the civilian sector. This approach would work similarly for CHAMPUS eligible beneficiaries. Simply put, Medicare and CHAMPUS would be treated as another third party payor (Blue Cross, private insurance, etc.).

This bill would also help these facilities to operate at full capacity which would result in the following:

- Increase productivity by reducing unit costs.

- Help insure medical readiness in the case of mobilization.

- Fulfillment of the government's commitments made but not always kept.

- Help Medicare meet its obligation to all who have faithfully paid their Medicare premiums.

- Decreased costs to both taxpayers and patients.

AGENT ORANGE UPDATE

If you served with the military in Vietnam and your child has Spina Bifida or if you know of someone who fits this description, you may be interested in knowing that the Spina Bifida Association of America has been awarded a continuation of its grant from the Vietnam Veteran's Agent Orange Assistance Program.

The grant focuses on bowel continence, home accessibility, and independent living training.

The parent who served in Vietnam need not be living with the child. Adopted children may also qualify for the program.

Also, if you know of a Vietnam veteran who has a child with another disability, other Agent Orange Assistance Projects may be of interest.

For more information, call the Spina Bifida Association Agent Orange Hotlin at

1-800-872-8058

or write to:

**Ann Sperry, Nurse Consultant
1247 Harbor View Lane
Charleston, SC 29412**

**DON'T DELAY IN MAKING CONTACT AS APPLICATIONS WILL BE SENT TO FAMILIES IN
JANUARY 1992.**

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